

30. (Amended) The supply element of claim 17, further comprising first and second assemblies, said first assembly being adapted to contain a module carrying said supply element and supply equipment and said module being adapted to be releasably connected to said second assembly.

31. (Amended) The supply element of claim 17, wherein said seal of said at least one third supplier is adapted to be pierced by an end of said first supplier to enable said substance to be transferred from said at least one third supplier to the first supplier of the microchip.

-- 32. (New) A method of operating a supply element for a laboratory microchip with a microfluid structure for at least one of chemical, physical, or biological processing, the method comprising::

- supplying substances to the microchip with a first supplier;
- supplying a potential to the microchip with a second supplier to move substances corresponding to the microfluid structure,
- containing a substance in at least one substance-containing third supplier;
- opening a seal in said at least one third supplier to the microchip in response to the supply element and the microchip being joined together; and
- transferring said substance from said at least one third supplier to the first supplier of the microchip.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein opening said seal comprises opening a seal comprising a chemically resistant substance.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein opening said seal comprises opening a seal comprising a wax.

35. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising sealing at least one end of at least one third supplier with a membrane that is flush with a side surface of the supply element.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein sealing at least one end of at least one third supplier with a membrane comprises sealing with a membrane comprising a chemically resistant material.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein sealing at least one end of at least one third supplier with a membrane comprises sealing with a membrane comprising one of a metal or a gas-permeable polymer.

38. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein containing a substance in at least one substance-containing third supplier comprises containing at least one substance sample.

39. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein containing a substance in at least one substance-containing third supplier comprises at least one substance reagent.

40. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein containing a substance in at least one substance-containing third supplier comprises containing at least one substance sample and at least one substance reagent.

41. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising coupling a fourth supplier to the corresponding second supplier on the microchip and transferring the potential from the fourth supplier to the microchip.

42. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising releasably attaching the supply element to supply equipment.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein releasably attaching the supply element to supply equipment comprises releasably attaching with a bayonet lock.

44. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising identifying the supply element to a second corresponding coding arrangement of supply equipment with a first coding arrangement.

45. The method of claim 32, further comprising containing a module carrying said supply element with a first assembly and releasably connecting said module to said second assembly with a second assembly.

46. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising piercing said seal of said at least one third supplier with an end of said first supplier and transferring said substance to be transferred from said at least one third supplier to the first supplier of the microchip.--